

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Erin, who was born in New Hartford and raised in Remsen, both in New York's 24th Congressional District. In 1999, at the age of 12, Erin was introduced to the sport of luge through a Verizon/USA Luge Slider Search in Syracuse, New York. After being selected to a development team, she began training in Lake Placid.

Erin earned two Junior National Championship titles and a collection of Junior World Cup medals as a member of the U.S. Junior National Team from 2003 to 2006 and as a competitor on the Junior World Cup Circuit from 2002 to 2005. After making the World Cup Team in the fall of 2005, Erin earned a spot on the 2006 Olympic Team. At the Winter Games in Torino, Italy she slid to a 12th place finish, and was named to the Senior National Team the following season. Erin is also the reigning 2008 Verizon U.S. National Champion.

The accomplishments of Erin and the entire USA Luge team cannot be applauded without commending the efforts of their coaching staff. Senior National Team Head Coach Wolfgang Schaedler, Assistant Coach Klim Gatker, and Team Manager Fred Zimny guided the USA Luge team to victory this year. On behalf of my colleagues in Congress and all of Upstate New York, I wish to congratulate this team on their success and recognition.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues join me in congratulating Erin Hamlin and the entire USA Luge Team, and to support them in their future endeavors as they continue to inspire athletes across the country.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the United States Export-Import Bank, chartered by Congress in 1934 with the mission of financing U.S. exports in support of U.S. jobs. The Ex-Im Bank has been an important tool in our effort to preserve and expand American jobs in an era of international competition. In an ideal world, there wouldn't be an Ex-Im Bank. But given the fact that other countries aggressively provide public financing to make their exports more competitive, it would amount to unilateral disarmament not to have a strong and active U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Ex-Im Bank has played an important role in trade finance as a lender of last resort, allowing exports to go forward for projects that would otherwise not get support from private lenders. In support of this mission in recent years, the Bank has launched efforts to support small business exporters, women and minority-owned exporters, and exports in support of development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the midst of the credit and economic crisis we are now working so hard to resolve, it's particularly important that we have the Ex-Im Bank in place. With consumers in the U.S. pulling back, exports will need to play a lead-

ing role in economic recovery. Unfortunately, as in all other areas of private credit, trade financing coming from the private sector has fallen, and as a result, otherwise viable U.S. exports are not able to proceed due to the lack of credit. Ex-Im Bank can and should step in to address this financing gap, just as it did at the time of its Depression-era founding, during the Mexican debt crisis of the early 1980s, and during the Asian crisis of the 1990s. I look forward to working with the Bank to ensure that exporters are adequately financed during this current crisis.

Ex-Im Bank has been able to serve its public mission during times of crisis and in support of underserved areas of trade finance while remaining a good steward of taxpayers' dollars. In its 75 years, the Bank has financed over \$400 billion in U.S. exports with a loss rate of under 2 percent. This is a track record that should be noted and I am pleased to do so today.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, the current conflict in Gaza has drawn international attention. Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel and recognize the operations in Gaza as acts of self defense.

For 8 years, Hamas has conducted rocket and mortar attacks into Israeli communities with increasing intensity and range. Hamas fired without concern for civilian casualties and it is time to put an end to Hamas's attacks.

Israel has had no choice but to take military action in order to protect and defend its people.

A permanent cease-fire must be reached but we must work to create a peace that is "durable and sustainable" and that starts with an end to Hamas's attacks on Israel.

We in the United States must continue to stand in support our friend and ally Israel.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUAKER CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Quaker City United Methodist Church was founded in 1833 by Edward H. Taylor celebrated its 175th anniversary in Quaker City, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of met in the old cording mill and later in the Odd Fellows Hall for the first 38 years until a new church was erected on West Main street in 1871, and

Whereas, the congregation moved to its current location in 1908 after a campaign to raise money for the building of a church yielded \$12,000—\$7,000 of it donated by the family of Jesse Lingo, and

Whereas, the church was dedicated in February of 1909 and has remained there ever since, and

Whereas, the congregation of only 28 members has grown to more than 65 and is lead by Pastor Wilbur Bragg; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Quaker City United Methodist Church on 175 years of dedication and service to the Quaker City community and their continued devotion to the Methodist faith spanning nearly two centuries.

HONORING FIDELITY MANOR SCHOOLS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Fidelity Manor Schools in the Galena Park Community in my district, for their invaluable education to African-American students for nearly 50 years.

Predating 1955, a building formerly used for white students became an educational institution for African-American students in the Clinton Community, renamed Galena Park in 1936. The building was moved to the Fidelity addition—an area of Clinton named for the Fidelity Shipyard—and became known as the Fidelity School, housing only eight grades and containing one individual who acted as both teacher and principal.

With the growing African-American community Fidelity Manor Schools began to evolve in many ways. Additional classes and teachers were added to meet requirements held by the school district. Fidelity Manor Schools excelled in academics and athletics, winning district and state competitions during its existence.

In 1970 due to desegregation, Fidelity Manor Schools were closed and its students were integrated into the Galena Park School System. Although the Fidelity Manor School buildings were razed in 1986, their history lives on. For its invaluable service to the African-American community and to the Galena Park Community, I extend my deepest gratitude, and honor Fidelity Manor Schools.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD SHAV-ER AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE HUNGER GARDEN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has generously donated his land, his money, and his time to feeding thousands of needy individuals and families in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

For nearly fifteen years, Mr. Richard Shaver, of Madison, Pennsylvania, has operated the "Hunger Garden." The garden is 100 percent volunteer driven, planting and harvesting thousands of pounds of vegetables for the Westmoreland County Food Bank every year. Hundreds of volunteers work evenings and weekends producing sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, and zucchini for